

# WFGF GAZETTE

## FALCONS RETURN TO SEA

*The Sikorsky "S" on Hunter 610 signifies the 2011 Carrier Based Sikorsky Maintenance Squadron of the Year Award.*



After a short turn around and some much needed time with friends and family the Golden Falcons returned to the USS Abraham Lincoln to play our vital role in supporting the Strike Group. Immediately following an awesome performance on COMPTUEX we made final preparations for

deployment. Our success isn't possible without the support and love from you; our friends and family back home. We hope this newsletter forms a new medium to communicate with you and allows an inside look at what we do on a daily basis while deployed. Thank you for your continued support!!!

### DECEMBER 2011

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*WORLD FAMOUS GOLDEN FALCONS*

## THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

December 7<sup>th</sup> 1941, Pearl Harbor – Six Japanese carriers located 200 miles north of Oahu launched a first wave of 181 bombers and fighters of multiple types. As they winged south, some elements of U.S. forces on Oahu realized there was something different about this Sunday morning. Never could they guess the change in American history that was imminent. When the attack ended shortly before

10:00am, less than two hours after it began, the American forces had paid a fearful price. Twenty-one ships and over 300 aircraft of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were destroyed or damaged. American losses numbered 2,403. Please take a few moments to remember this piece of history and the grave sacrifices that have been made by the proud American men and women of the US Armed Forces.

## WORDS FROM THE SKIPPER

WFGF Family,

As I write this, it is Christmas Eve and the International Date Line is in our rear view mirror. We have already accomplished so much in just the first 2 weeks of deployment. Not to mention the Det 1 “Slings” have been out there blazing a trail for over a month already. The World Famous Golden Falcons have always tried to keep a sense of family here at work. Now during the holidays while we are separated from our immediate families, that togetherness is even more meaningful. Even though we all wish we could be home with you, the bonds we have formed with our brother and sister Golden Falcons help make the holidays without you almost bearable. As a family we have already seen adversity, suffered loss and received recognition for excellence. Most importantly we are all safe and depending on each other as a family should throughout the holidays. We are proud of the opportunity to serve our country and knowing that you are there waiting for us with love and support makes it worthwhile and reminds us why we volunteered in the first place. I better get to sleep; Santa likes to borrow Hunter 610 to make deliveries throughout the Strike Group. Happy Holidays & Happy New Year to the entire WFGF Family.

Very Respectfully,

Skipper Roach



## XO'S CORNER

Greetings families and friends of the World Famous Golden Falcons. Merry Christmas!! I'm writing as we transit westbound enroute to our first port visit in Thailand. It has been an extremely successful and productive first two weeks of deployment. Our sailors have stayed busy between meeting the requirements of flight operations and the many administrative requirements that come with every deployment. We've all been through medical for our first round of vaccinations. Despite some sore arms, all went well. As most of you know, after this deployment our primary focus will be getting ready for a change of permanent duty stations as we prepare to move overseas. With this move, there will be some tremendous administrative requirements for both our sailors, and their dependent families. Through this forum, and via our eager Ombudsman Kina, I will begin to feed you all as much information as I can to make the transition go as smoothly as possible. For now, enjoy your holidays. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

CDR Bailey, XO



## SEL's REMARKS

Greetings and Happy Holidays Golden Falcon Family,

We have not yet been out to sea a month but a lot has been happening around here. We have had a Holiday Party on board with a delicious meal and the New Year is in sight. We wish all of you at home a Happy New Year and will celebrate you here on New Year's Eve.

We have had a new baby Falcon born on Christmas Day, Korey Marquis Turner. Our first of this deployment but not our last. Both Mom and baby are doing very well. Congratulations!

We will soon have our first port visit, which everyone is looking forward to. The Golden Falcons continue to work hard every day and a break is very well deserved.

That is all from this end. We keep you all in our hearts every day and look forward to our return home.

Very Respectfully,  
AMCS(AW/SW) Deena Skeens  
HSC-12 Senior Enlisted Leader







## ADMIN DEPARTMENT



The Human Resource Department consisting of five Navy occupational ratings provides administrative, personnel, information resource, culinary and physical security support. CS2 Landers, is assigned to Ships Aft Galley, CS3 Nuestro works in the Chiefs Mess and CSSN Scheer, Forward Galley. Their jobs consist of prepping and cooking meals four times a day for a ship's crew of over 5000 Sailors and civilian contractors. Our Physical Security, MA3 Beezley patrols the ship's compartment spaces, often you may find him in our sleeping quarters making sure our loved one's teddy bears are safe. IT2 Monzon & IT3 Frani ensure our computers and network systems are up and running, their commitment and professionalism enable us to communicate with our family through email and in our spare time surf the internet for gift ideas for our families. When it comes to financial matters, Personnel Specialists are our BFF's, they make sure all our entitlements such as Sea Pay, Family Separation Allowance, Flight Deck Pay and Tax Free pay are submitted in a timely manner. PS2 Willis currently works out of the Disbursing Office, handling our Navy Cash Card accounts; the card is the primary means of conducting financial transactions on Navy ships. We can use the cards to purchase sodas, candy and other essential items in our Ship's store. PS2 Avila handles the personnel transfers and separations; ensuring our Sailors make it to their next duty station or back to their families when under orders.

Now, PS1 Quintero, we really don't know what he does, he says he does a lot, but we are still trying to figure that out, he does however take pictures of all the crew so our Ombudsman can post them on Facebook for our Golden Falcon families to enjoy. YN3 Noble aka Batman is working really hard and striving to become the subject matter expert in the administration field; keep pushing buddy! YN2 Quinones (the real Q so she says) is currently working on getting her Wings (Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist) and is really motivated in her workout regimen. Then there's the glue that holds his dentures and us together, YNC Andrews, our Sea Daddy; he reads us lots of bedtime stories at night and enforces teamwork, Navy values and a family atmosphere. He coaches us in our daily routine and how we should all work together to accomplish our mission; and watches movies all day long. From the Human Resource Department we want to wish to our families and friends, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. "We are involved because we understand."



## OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT



It's been a very busy couple of months for the Golden Falcon Operations Department, whether on COMPTUEX or at homeguard. Our operations department has maintained an unparalleled level of readiness, due in no small measure to the hard work of our award winning maintainers.

On the fourteenth of November a cadre of our finest boarded the USNS Charles Drew as part of a logistics support detachment in preparation for the larger force aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln. They have been out to sea since refining their skills and Vertically Replenishing other Naval assets prior to arriving in any forward operating area. They will continue to be the delivery crew for the Battle Group throughout our deployment.

It is a way of life in our community to have to say goodbye to some great friends and mentors as they carry on to bigger and better things, so we would like to say farewell and following seas to Chief Trull, AWS2 Hawk, and AWS2 Yee as they head to their next commands and carry the "World Famous Golden Falcon" spirit and pride with them. While saying farewell to such great fliers we welcome aboard our newest baby Falcons, while they are no substitute for those that they are replacing, Petty Officers Campbell and Bryan are embraced as part of our team at a difficult moment as we depart for the front lines.

Finally we would like to thank our amazing friends and families as we spend, yet another, holiday season away from home. We miss you all and yearn for the day that we meet again, but even before that we have to maintain our preparedness as we enter the frontlines, fulfill our responsibilities there, and return home. Until that time we would like to set your mind at ease by letting you know that we the World Famous Golden Falcons take care of our own and will do everything it takes to come back on time and with our Honor intact. We were the first on this ship and will be the last to leave, ensuring the completion of every mission and safety of all 5000 shipmates embarked, because everybody knows, "They Don't Get Off Without Us".

## MAINTENANCE/MATERIAL CONTROL



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's from HSC-12 Maintenance and Material Control! This month we said goodbye to a few of our beloved shipmates, AMC Freeman, LS1 Coates, AD2 Iglesias, AZ2 Lanier, and AZ3 Jones who are on to a new chapter. Fair Winds and Following Seas, you will definitely be missed! We also welcomed aboard some new ones: AMC Goode from HS-15, LS2 Stone from Balboa Naval Hospital and AZ3 Moody from VFA-122. They are bringing much experience and knowledge to the Golden Falcon Team. Well, here we are again, "The World Famous Golden Falcons," in the first few weeks of our 2011-2012 deployment around the world. The past couple of weeks we've spent most of our time getting things unpacked, organized, and put into their new homes.

Running the show in Maintenance Control we have ADCS Franklin and AMC Mohr during the day and AMC Goode and AOC Mendoza at night, with ADC Araicasalas running around both shifts trying to get his Safe For Flight Qualification...a very serious, and respected qualification within the Maintenance Department. Releasing aircraft and ensuring the proper precautions are taken before flying these helicopters is not an easy job. Heading up the AZ shop, we have AZC Jacobsen, who always ensures that the AZ's are doing their job correctly and offering guidance and training where it is needed. Always alongside the Maintenance chiefs working diligently is AZ1 Brown. She's so quick to fix and correct any issue within our aircraft maintenance system, managing anything and everything associated with the paperwork that keeps these helicopters flying. AZ3 Moody, our newest addition to Maintenance Control, is following right along in her footsteps. AZ3 Lino and AN Fraenza keep a watchful eye on our night check Chiefs from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. Yes, it's true...we work around the clock! LS1 Abano keeps Material Control in line and ensures that everyone has what they need with some great help from LSSN Cisneros. LS1 Aldrich handles the graveyard shift with ease. A round of applause is in order for LS3 He who was recognized by Carrier Air Wing Two for his excellent forklift driving skills during the onload of over 1,020 pallets of gear onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln.

Behind the scenes, we have a dedicated Maintenance Master Chief, AFCM Phousirith and a meticulous Maintenance/Material Control Officer, LCDR Tachikawa. They are always around to verify the underlying details and ensuring that everything is tracked and managed properly for our aircraft to stay flying. The entire maintenance department works hard 24/7 to make sure that our helicopters are standing by for any situation that could arise requiring the quick precision associated with what we do here at HSC-12. Without Maintenance Control to direct all of the maintenance that needs to be accomplished safely and Material Control to provide the logistics we couldn't complete the really important mission, returning home safely to see all of you after this short tour of the world.



## AIRCRAFT DIVISION



The 2011-2012 deployment kick off has been a very busy time for the Aircraft division which is made up of the PR shop, Power Plants, and Airframes. While we've been on deployment for only twelve days so far, we have already achieved a lot. Aircraft division is very blessed to have gotten the majority of the advancements through the CAP program, and is extremely grateful to have our hard work recognized in such a way. We would like to extend a huge congratulations to newly advanced AD1 Anderson and PR3 Hinsley. We are more proud than words can say of these two exceptional sailors, and I know that their family and friends back home are equally proud. Santa did not forget about the Airframe shop this year, as every good little AM received presents and stockings stuffed to the brim. With no chimney to come down, we assume that Santa got in through the nearby weather deck. It was tough spending Christmas away from our friends and family, but luckily we have a second family here away from home. From our shop LPO, AM1 Avila, to Airman Thorpe who's working down in the Chief's Mess for his TAD time, we here in the airframe shop work hard to foster a comforting and supportive environment for our sailors while they are away from home.

The Power Plants shop is proud to have played a part in the World Famous Golden Falcons receiving the Sikorsky Carrier-based Maintenance Squadron of the Year award. We are very honored to have our hard work and dedication recognized with this prestigious award. Between AD1 Anderson getting advanced and winning this award from Sikorsky, the first two weeks of deployment have set the tone for what we believe will be a wildly successful trip around the world. We'd like to give a quick shout out to AD3 Holman who had the pleasure to take part in a videoconference with New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick. We appreciate coach taking the time to talk to us, and it lets us know that everybody back home is supportive of us as we go into harm's way to do the country's business.

The PR's have done an outstanding job making sure that our pilots and aircrew have all the equipment they need to complete their missions. They have a notable new addition: PR1 Grizzanti has taken over for PR1 Glynn as shop LPO. We are very happy to welcome PR1 from HELANTISUBRON FOUR just across the base, even though we are sad to lose PR1 Glynn. We would also like to say a fond farewell to PR2 Martinez who has moved on to other things. We wish you fair winds and following seas. Good luck.

While we weren't able to have Christmas dinner at home with our loved ones, our gracious hosts here onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln prepared a lovely dinner for us, which was served by our upper chain of command. Food just tastes that much sweeter when the mashed potatoes are being scooped out by Senior Chief Campbell and we have Chief Duffield to bus our trays for us when we are done eating. From everyone here in Aircraft Division to everyone back home, Merry Christmas, thank you for the wonderful support you give us, and it will all be worth it when we see your smiling faces in San Diego again.



## AV/ARM DIVISION



Season's Greetings from the Golden Falcon AV/ARM division. We are underway again, and we are all extremely disappointed to be spending our second Christmas away from friends and family, however our disappointment is tempered by our pride in our willingness to make this sacrifice for our country and its people.

The electrician shop is chugging along as always under the superb leadership of AE1 Sykes who took over as LPO during our last deployment. Bravo Zulu to the recently advanced AE2 Wooldridge for qualifying as a plane captain. We would like to welcome the new addition of highly motivated AEAN Gonzalez to the AE team. He is coming over to us from the line shack and we are very happy to have an eager to learn airman again, and I'm sure he will have great success in his new duties.

Night check is run by our other new addition AE2 Mary Maness who is also coming over from the line shack after a stint as their night check supervisor. I'm sure they are as sad to lose her, as we are happy to get her back. We also have another new qualification to report: AE3 Amon is our newest work center Collateral Duty Inspector. Congratulations!

With extremely mixed emotions we are saying a fond farewell to AE2 Ingram. He is a huge loss to our workcenter, but we are extremely proud that he was selected by the STA-21 program as a pilot candidate. He is off to college to earn a bachelors degree and then he will enroll in flight school. I know he is hoping to fly helicopters; so maybe some day we will be fixing gripes for him. Good-bye and good luck. You will be sorely missed.

We've been executing successful plane guard missions with our fellow air wing squadrons, giving the jet and prop pilots the security they need in knowing we are out there in full support of their mission. Always first to fly and last to land, we pull long hours, but the feeling of accomplishment and reward is well worth the sacrifice, and when we finally hit the rack at the end of our shifts we can sleep soundly knowing that we live up to our names as the World Famous Golden Falcons.

We have a number of new additions to the AT shop. Recently advanced AT3 Armstrong joined us from HSM-41, and AT3 Morgan transferred over from HS-10. Also joining us are ATAN Acosta and ATAN Juarez, who are unfortunately doing some TAD time around the ship. AE1 Caruso is going to be doing some serious cross-training with his new role as Avionics LPO. He is joining us from RTC Great Lakes where he spent three long years beating new recruits into shape. Everyone looks forward to calming him down and acclimating him to the West Coast Navy lifestyle. We offer you all a warm welcome to the Golden Falcon family.

The Aviation Ordnancemen would like to take time out from our busy schedule, taking care of guns, missiles, and all things ordnance, to wish everybody back home happy holidays and best wishes. We are out here making sure that our pilots and aircrew never go into any situation without the proper firepower.

So from everyone here in the AV/ARM division: Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. We miss you. We love you. And we look forward to being with you again when we get home next year.

## LINE DIVISION



There is never a dull moment in the Line Division of the World Famous Golden Falcons. We have the honor of being the training ground for the bulk of our aircraft maintainers. We train plane captains (PC's) and landing signalmen enlisted (LSE's), men and women responsible for keeping our helicopters primed and ready to go at a moments notice. Whenever our aircraft need to be moved we sit in the cockpit and "ride brakes" to make sure it is moved safely. When our helicopters are launched out from the ship we are the ones that stand in front of the aircraft and ensure the launch sequence is followed properly and when it is ready to take off we are the ones that run in under the rotor arc and removed the chocks and chains just before it departs the ship. Due to the space constraints on the ship the main rotor blades must be folded back and secured to the tail with blade clamps. We are the ones that maintain that equipment and ensure it is ready and available at a moment's notice.

Part of the joy of serving in the finest helicopter squadron in the fleet is being ready to launch a search and rescue mission whenever it is needed. We have had to answer that call twice and we were more than up to the challenge. We answered each call as if lives were on the line. Fortunately, that was not the case in either instance and we have properly responded to false alarms to our credit.

We are the division with the most personnel in it and also the division with the most junior personnel. Instead of letting that get in the way of us doing our mission we use the energy and vigor of our youth to excel. We stand ready to meet any challenge and to answer duty's call whenever it comes.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE



The first two weeks for Quality Assurance have been fun and exciting as we venture on a new journey, and for some, our final voyage aboard CVN-72. Many of us have many deployments on the old Abe, and as we venture through the holidays, and trudge the trail of service through our workcenter, program, and plain captain audits, we are grateful to know we have a united team of Subject Matter Experts (SME's) to share this holiday season with. If not be for the "World Famous Golden Falcon" family spirit, perhaps we wouldn't be able to share such holiday cheer while separated from our families and loved ones.

Fortunately for us, we have a fun filled crew in our hole of a shop all the

way forward on this beast of a ship. That being said, despite the paper trails and hours on end of work never done, but always in process, nothing but laughter follows as we sail. It's been a good first two weeks for Quality Assurance. Happy Holidays to All!



**HERE'S WISHING ALL  
OF YOU A HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS FROM THE  
WORLD FAMOUS  
GOLDEN FALCONS!**

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